

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SY-04 USSS-00 SCCT-01 /066 W

----- 116800

R 311955Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6150

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0462

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP SHAKEUP PREDICTED

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY PARTY SOURCES THAT CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRESIDENT EDMUNDO PAGUAGA IRIAS, WHO LOST DECISIVELY TO ANASTASIO SOMOZA IN LAST YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, MAY BE SHORTLY REPLACED AS PART OF THE FALL-OUT FROM THE FSLN TERRORIST ATTACK FOUR WEEKS AGO. PAGUAGA'S SUCCESSOR WILL BE EDUARDO CHAMORRO CORONEL, CONSERVATIVE DEPUTY, PROMINENT ARCHITECT, AND RISING STAR OF THE PARTY, IF THE BEHIND THE SCENES MACHINATIONS OF THE PARTY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADERS DO NOT FAIL. THESE LEADERS--SUGAR MAGNATE ALFREDO PELLAS AND PARTY VICE-PRESIDENT ALBERTO CHAMORRO (EDUARDO CHAMORRO'S FIRST AND SECOND COUSIN RESPECTIVELY)--CONFERRED AT LENGTH WITH EDUARDO CHAMORRO HERE AND IN MIAMI DURING THE PAST WEEK TO HAMMER OUT A PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING ON FUTURE PARTY POLICIES AND ARE NOW MAKING PLANS TO UNSEAT PAGUAGA.

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2. EDUARDO CHAMORRO TOLD POLOFF ON JANUARY 29 THAT PELLAS AND ALBERTO CHAMORRO (WHO TOGETHER ENGINEERED THE PARTY COUP AGAINST FERNANDO AGUERO IN FEBRUARY 1973 WHICH BROUGHT PAGUAGA TO POWER) HAD DECIDED TO TAKE A CALCULATED RISK ON THEIR YOUNGER KINSMAN. PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DIFFERENCES IN POLITICAL STYLE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY HAD SHRIVELED AS A RESULT OF THE DANGERS REVEALED BY THE LOS ROBLES INCIDENT. HE COMMENTED THAT ALBERTO CHAMORRO AND PELLAS PROBABLY FEARED THAT OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP WOULD SHIFT DEFINITELY TO THE NEWLY FORMED UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL) WHICH HAS COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION, OR TO THE SANDINISTAS THEMSELVES, IF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WAS NOT REBUILT QUICKLY. CHAMORRO ADDED THAT AWARENESS THAT THE CHANGE HAD TO BE EFFECTED WITH SOME URGENCY CAME AS A RESULT OF THE PATHETIC SPECTACLE TWO WEEKS AGO OF PAGUAGA ATTEMPTING TO DIRECT THE PARTY IN FRAMING A POSITION PAPER ON THE TERRORIST INCIDENT. REMAINING TO BE WORKED OUT, HOWEVER, IS PRECISELY HOW TO DISPLACE PAGUAGA WITHOUT CAUSING POLITICAL BLOODSHED.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PELLAS, USUALLY THE MOST CAUTIOUS OF SOULS, IS UNLIKELY TO BE DENIED HIS WILL IN AN OPERATION DESIGNED TO GIVE THE PARTY A MORE MILITANT ORIENTATION. WE HAVE THOUGHT FOR SOME TIME THAT THE CONSERVATIVES WOULD BE UNABLE TO MOUNT A CHALLENGE TO SOMOZA WITHOUT SOME DRASTIC CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP. AS ONE OF THE FEW "PAGUAGISTAS" WHO HAVE MANAGED TO MAINTAIN THE PURITY OF THEIR ANTI-GOVERNMENT STANCE, THE PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE AND COOLLY INTELLIGENT EDUARDO CHAMORRO IS PROBABLY THE ONLY PERSONALITY WHO CAN OFFER THAT CHANGE. (FYI: ALBERTO CHAMORRO TOLD SOMOZA JAN. 29 THAT EDUARDO HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO REPLACE PAGUAGA, BUT SUGGESTED A SOMEWHAT LONGER GESTATION PERIOD FOR THE CHANGE THAN OUTLINED ABOVE.)
SHELTON

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